

### Injury-Related Visits to Emergency Departments

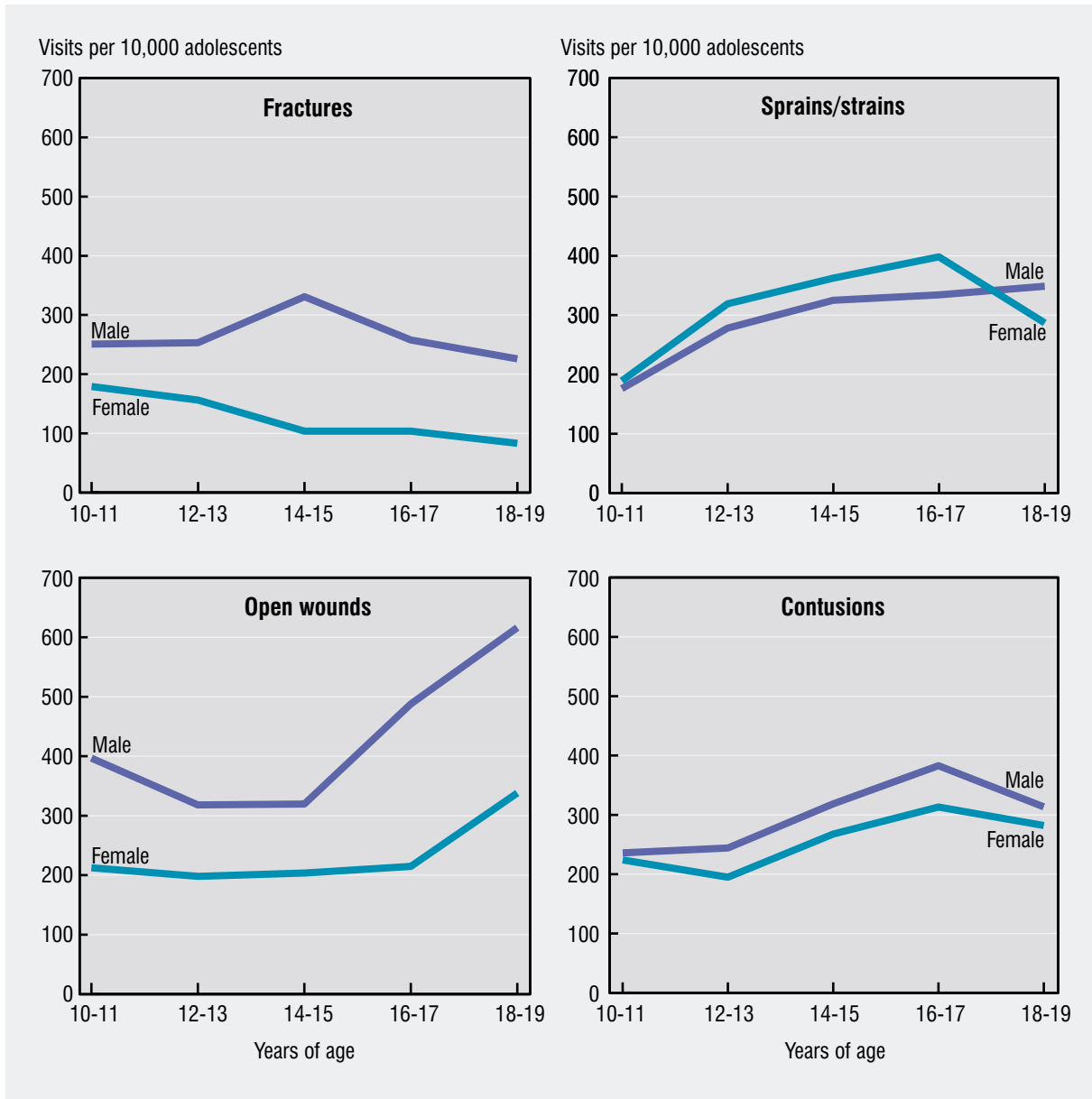
In 1995–97 open wounds, fractures, sprains and strains, and contusions were the four most common injury diagnoses for emergency department visits among adolescents 10–19 years of age. These four injury diagnoses accounted for 80 percent of all first-listed injury diagnoses for adolescents. Open wound injuries were the most often reported diagnoses for male adolescents and sprains, strains and contusions were the most often reported for female adolescents.

■ The emergency department visit rate for open wounds for male adolescents 18–19 years of age was nearly twice that for adolescents 12–15 years of age. Open wound injury visit rates for female adolescents 10–19 years of age were about one-half the rates for males at each age. These injuries are caused primarily by knives and other instruments for cutting or piercing.

■ Emergency department visit rates for fractures among male adolescents did not vary by age. The rates for female adolescents declined with age; the visit rate for fractures at 18–19 years was less than one-half the rate at 10–11 years. Among males 14–19 years of age, age-specific visit rates for fractures were about 3 times those for females. Upper extremity fracture was the most common fracture site reported for males and females. Injuries resulting from falls and being struck were the primary causes of these fractures.

■ Sprains, strains and contusions were the most commonly reported diagnoses in emergency department visits for female adolescents 10–19 years, accounting for one-half of all first-listed injury diagnoses. There were no significant gender differences by age for visits for sprains and strains or contusions. Among the leading external causes of these injuries were motor vehicle traffic crashes, falls, being struck and overexertion.

**Figure 11. Emergency department visit rates for selected injury diagnoses among adolescents 10–19 years of age, by age and sex: United States, average annual 1995–97**



NOTES: See Technical Notes for discussion of emergency department visits. See also Appendix I, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. See Data Table for data points graphed.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS).